[27th August 1955

to cater to the needs of our poor population, especially because of the unwillingness nowdays of the medical graduates to settle down in village dispensaries? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" It is not a new idea; it is an old idea that has been discarded."

Death of a hydrocele patient in the General Hospital

* 368 Q.—DR. A. SREENIVASAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a person by name Sri S. Ramaswami was admitted into Ward No. 12 of the Madras General Hospital for operation for Hydrocele on Saturday, the 12th March 1955;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that he was taken to the mortuary on Monday, the 28th instant;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the death is reported to be due to complications from operation;

(*d*) if the answer to clause (*c*) is in the affirmative, whether the Government will be pleased to set out *seriatim* the complications referred to;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that the death was caused by an infection of Tetanus;

(*f*) if the answer to clause (*e*) is in the affirmative, when the first signs of Tetanus were observed;

(*g*) whether it is a fact that several cases of death due to the infection of Tetanus have occurred in the General Hospital, Madras;

(*h*) whether the Government have instituted any enquiry into the cause thereof and with what result; and

(*i*) whether the infection of Tetanus in the case of Sri S. Ramaswami was due to his own action and if not, whether the Government propose to give any compensation to the members of his family?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" *Clause* (*a*) *to* (*i*) A statement[a] is placed on the table of the House."

DR. A. SREENIVASAN :—" What was the operation, Sir? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" It is stated in the question. Perhaps the hon. Member is not aware of his own question."

DR. A. SREENIVASAN :—" The Hon. Minister has stated that the patient developed signs of tetanus. Tetanus means non-infection. Even a healthy man, without any injury, even for a pin-prick may be said to suffer from tetanus. It is called idiopathic tetanus, I have got text books to testify my statement."

[a] Printed as Appendix I on page 629 infra.

27th August 1955]

SRI V. CHAKKARAI CHETTY :—" Is it idiopathic or idiotic, Sir?" (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I am thankful to the information of the hon. Member. This answer has been furnished by the Head of the department. It is a technical matter. The hon. Member may well discuss this question before the Medical Association."

DR. A. SREENIVASAN :—" Was not investigation made to find out the bleeding state that was present in this patient?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Investigation was made and necessary medicines were administered but in spite of all that was done, the patient got tetanus and died. Such mishaps may sometimes take place in other hospitals also, not only in this country but also in Western countries."

DR. A. SREENIVASAN :—" I want to put one more supplementary question, Sir."

MR. CHAIRMAN :—" No more supplementaries."

SRI A. GAJAPATHY NAYAGAR :—" I want to put one very important supplementary question. Will you please permit me, Sir?"

MR. CHAIRMAN :—" All right."

SRI A. GAJAPATHY NAYAGAR :—" It is said that the infection may be due to " faecal contamination ". Is there faecal contamination among human beings. I think only in case of animals, it is there."

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" In Hydrocele operation, faecal contamination sometimes takes place. Particular care has to be taken with reference to such contamination."

Allotment for Local Development works

* 369 *Q*.—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement showing the districtwar allotment for Local Development works in the year 1953–54 and in the year 1954–55 and the amount actually spent on the same in each of those years?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" A statement [a] is placed on the table of the House."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" May I know whether Government have investigated into the cause of non-utilization of the allotted amount in certain districts?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Yes, Sir, that has been done."

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[a] Printed as Appendix II on page 630 infra.